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Overseas, Biden Speaks on Importance of Rule of Law

U.S. Ambassadors to Romania and Ukraine asked Biden to share his perspective as Attorney General, major in the Army National Guard's JAG Corps, and former USDOJ Interim Legal Advisor in Kosovo

Wilmington – At the invitation of two U.S. Ambassadors, Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden is in Romania and Ukraine this week to deliver three speeches on the importance of the rule of law and an independent judiciary in a democratic society.

On Tuesday morning, Biden delivered the keynote address at the “Promoting and Ensuring Transparency and Accountability with the Judiciary” regional counter corruption conference in Bucharest, Romania.

“The rule of law is a maxim of equality – everyone subject to the same laws and the same consequences for breaking those laws,” Biden said. “This maxim dictates that, without exception, no one is above the law and no one is below it. That doesn’t just apply to people; it applies to businesses, institutions, elected officials, and the judiciary.”

The annual conference brings together law enforcement officers from 20 European countries and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs and the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

Last year, Biden participated in a panel discussion at the conference, which was held in Zagreb, Croatia. The full text of Biden’s remarks will be available upon request.

On Thursday, Biden will speak at the dedication ceremony for the new U.S. embassy in Bucharest. Romanian Prime Minister Mihai Răzvan Ungereanu will also speak at the ceremony, which begins at 4 p.m. Romanian time (10 a.m. EST).

On Saturday, Biden will be the featured speaker at the U.S. Ambassador’s Forum at the American embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine. The forum is a leadership and policy series hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Tefft and is aimed at creating a regular opportunity for the examination of the ideas, trends and forces impacting the world. The series brings prominent speakers, innovators and experts in a wide range of fields from the United States to Kyiv for an exchange of perspectives on issues facing Ukraine, the U.S., and the global community. The Forum begins at 5 p.m. Ukrainian time (11 a.m. EST).

U.S. Ambassador to Romania Mark Gitenstein invited Biden to speak at both events in Bucharest, and Ambassador Tefft asked Biden to speak at the Ambassador's Forum in Kyiv. The U.S. State Department is paying for the trip.

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